

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00249 031218Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 230

S E C R E T DOHA 249

FOR THE SECRETARY

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), PFOR, QA, US
SUBJECT : YOUR POSSIBLE VISIT TO GULF STATES

1. EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION INCREASING HERE ABOUT PROSPECT OF YOUR POSSIBLE VISIT TO QATAR AND OTHER GULF STATES. HIGHEST LEVEL GOQ OFFICIALS HAVE ASSUMED THAT YOU WILL DEFINITELY VISIT AND IT NO LONGER A MATTER OF "IF" BUT "WHEN", DESPITE MY REPEATED CAUTIONS THAT YOU HAVE NOT AND CANNOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT. IN ADDITION, LOCAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTING EVERY SCRAP OF INFORMATION COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON ON YOUR TRIP TO AREA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SIDE TOUR IN GULF.

2. ALTHOUGH ALL THIS MAY BE WISHFUL THINKING ON GOQ'S PART, IT INDICATES A DEEP RESPECT AND REGARD FOR YOU AS THE SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS BEST CHANCE OF BRINGING PEACE TO AREA AND, AS SUCH, WHOSE PRESENCE WOULD GREATLY HONOR QATAR. FAVORABLE ASPECTS FOR US IMAGE NEED NO ELABORATION.

3. LIABILITY OF CURRENT EUPHORIA IS, OF COURSE, DISAPPOINTMENT IF VISIT DOESN'T HAPPEN. I UNDERSTAND THAT KUWAIT IS DEFINITE PART OF YOUR ITINERARY. YOU MAY RECALL THAT AT COMS' CONFERENCE IN RIYADH I SAID QATARIS' NOSES WOULD BE WAY OUT OF JOINT IF YOU VISITED ANY OTHER GULF STATE, INCLUDING KUWAIT, AND DID NOT MAKE IT TO QATAR. THIS STILL GOES, ALTHOUGH MY COLLEAGUES IN OTHER LOWER GULF POSTS DID NOT RPT NOT SEE ANY PROBLEM FOR

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THEM IF YOU VISITED KUWAIT AND NOWHERE ELSE. I DO NOT HAVE ANY DELUSIONS CONCERNING QATAR'S RELATIVE IMPORTANCE IN GULF, MID

EAST OR INTERNATIONAL FIRMAMENT, BUT I WANTED AGAIN TO POINT OUT THAT THERE WILL BE RESENTMENT HERE IF YOU VISIT THE GULF AND QATAR DOES'T MAKE ITINERARY.

4. IN ANY EVENT, I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP QATARIS CLOSELY INFORMED ABOUT YOUR TRAVEL PLANS AS THEY DEVELOP WHETHER YOU COME OR NOT. IT WILL BE HELPFUL IF THEY DON'T GET THEIR FIRST WORK FROM THE PRESS. THIS PRESENTS OPERATIONAL PROBLEM SINCE OUR COMMO FACILITY IS AS YET IMCOMPLETE IN THAT WE UNABLE TO RECEIVE NODIS, STADIS AND ROGER CHANNEL TRAFFIC. I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL MESSAGES DEALING WITH YOUR TRAVEL ARE HANDLED IN THOSE CHANNELS. I HAVE RAISED THIS PROBLEM IN SEPARATE MESSAGE WITH APPROPRIATE ELEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT AND HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE.

5. BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRIP, WHICH I HOPE CAN INCLUDE QATAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0813
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750389/aaaadcsg.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : YOUR POSSIBLE VISIT TO GULF STATES
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, QA, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006